THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The average consumption of fertilizeres and pesticides in the country is only 90 Kg/ha and 0.57 kg/ha (active ingredient), respectively during 2001-02. This level of consumption is not considered as excessive.

(b) and (c) The Government is promoting soil test based balanced and integrated use of chemical fertilizers, organic manure and biofertilizers and also Integrated pest management programmes for the judicious and need-based use of pesticides. Besides, Government is also implementing a scheme "On-farm Water Management for increasing Crop Production in Eastern India" for optimal utilization of underground water resources for crop productivity.

Growth rate of food production

3137. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what it is the present growth rate of food production, in terms of population growth, in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the growth rate shows a downward trend for the first time, after independence;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would consider to supply foodgrains stored in the godowns, free of cost to the poor, to prevent starvation death incidents;

(e) whether it is a fact that the FCI godowns in Kerala are piled with foodgrains; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The compound growth rate of production of foodgrains for the period 1990-91 to 1999-2000 is 1.94% as against the average annual exponential growth rate of population of 1.93% (provisional) for the decade ending 2001.

(b) and (c) The Production of foodgrains in the country since independence shows a long-term upward trend, albeit with fluctuations due to variations in agro-climatic conditions. The food grains production upto the sixties grew mainly due to expansion of cultivated area. After the sixties, the growth was mainly due to accelerated rate of productivity. However, lately the cultivated area has remained more or less static, and the increase in productivity is not as significant as in the seventies and the eighties. Thus, while the overall production of foodgrains in the country still shows an upward trend, the rate of growth is not as high as it was in the earlier period.

(d) There is no proposal to distribute foodgrains free of cost. The foodgrains under special component of Sampoorna Gramin RojgarYojana (SGRY) are supplied to State Governments at free of cost but the Ministry of Rural Development re-imburses to Food Corporation of India (FCI) at economic cost. So far a quantity of 38.29 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated to 12 drought affected States.

(e) and (f) The storage capacity available with FCI in the State of Kerala as on 31st October, 2002 is 6.02 lakh metric tonnes whereas the stock of foodgrains on that date was 4.26 lakh metric tonnes. Thus, position of storage capacity is comfortable. The utilisation of existing FCI godowns in Kerala is 71%. There is still space to store more foodgrains.

Pulse and oilseeds production

3138. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target fixed for production of oilseeds and pulses, during the year 2001-02, has been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the various incentives being provided to farmers to motivate them to take up cultivation of these crops, on a large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The production of oilseeds and pulses has fallen short of the target fixed for the year 2001-02 due to the drought conditions in the major oilseeds and pulses growing States.